

## REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

Week ending the 22nd March 1890.

## CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>	
The Tibet-Sikkim negotiations ...	271	The assessment of the Eden Canal rate ...	281
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		The abolition of the steamer station at Dacca ...	ib.
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		The station-master of Kushtea ...	ib.
Fires in Sherpore in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.	State Railways ...	ib.
The police and suppression of obscene literature ...	ib.	No roads in the village Mahinder near Memari in the Burdwan district ...	282
The working of the Veasey circular ...	ib.	Roads at Chakar, a village within the jurisdiction of the Bagnan thana ...	ib.
Fakir Rajendra Nath Dutta on police espionage in India ...	ib.	The road from Chuadanga to Meherpore in the Nuddea district ...	ib.
The Sujagunge police in Berhampore ...	ib.	The station-master of Howrah and the recent collisions at the Howrah station ...	ib.
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		<b>(h)—General—</b>	
The Dum-Dum murder case ...	ib.	The Excise Despatch ...	ib.
The Magistrate of Dacca ...	272	The proposed Education cess ...	284
The Dum-Dum murder case ...	ib.	The Excise Despatch ...	ib.
O'Hara's discharge ...	ib.	Mr. Beadon of Durbhunga ...	285
Mr. Luson in Jessore ...	ib.	The Excise Despatch ...	ib.
O'Hara's discharge ...	274	The Excise Despatch ...	ib.
O'Hara's discharge ...	275	The Government's justification of its excise policy ...	287
O'Hara's discharge ...	ib.	The exodus of the Government to the hills ...	ib.
The Shibgunge Munsifi ...	276	Mr. Beadon's transfer from Durbhunga ...	ib.
The Dum-Dum murder case ...	277	A post office wanted at Otampur within the jurisdiction of the Ranishal post office ...	288
O'Hara's discharge... ..	ib.		
The landlord's fee in sales of fractional shares of permanent tenures in execution of decrees ...	ib.	<b>III.—LEGISLATIVE.</b>	
Baboo Harish Chandra Sen, Munsif of Barisal ...	ib.	The debate on the Indian Councils Bill ...	ib.
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		Translation of the Laws of the North-Western Provinces Council into Hindi ...	ib.
Nil.		<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
<b>(d)—Education—</b>		Baboo Jogendro Nath Bose on the Cashmere question ...	ib.
Entrance Examination in the town of Burdwan ...	278	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
School-boy morality ...	ib.	Nil.	
Baboo Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Circle ...	ib.	<b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
The last Upper Primary Examination in the Dacca Circle ...	ib.	The Mymensingh Swarawata Samiti ...	ib.
Sir Alfred Croft as Minister of Education ...	ib.	The Kol disturbance ...	289
The present educational system ...	279	The indigo disputes in the district of Jessore ...	ib.
<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>		The allowance granted to the widow of Sheikh Salim ...	ib.
The Burdwan Municipality ...	ib.	The Pioneer on sepoy recruitment ...	ib.
Well-privies with in the Cutwa Municipality ...	ib.	The cow-killing question ...	ib.
Sir Auckland Colvin and the Allahabad Municipality ...	ib.		
Roads in the Uluberia sub-division of the Howrah district ...	ib.		
Mr. Lee as Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality ...	280		
The Durbhunga temple case ...	ib.		
The Town Hall meeting of the rate-payers ...	ib.		
<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>			
Settlement of reclaimed lands in the 24-Pergunnahs district ...	ib.		







No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
43	"Dainik o Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	10th and 16th to 20th March 1890.
44	"Samvād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	800	14th, 15th, and 17th to 20th ditto.
45	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	14th, 15th and 17th to 19th ditto.
46	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ...	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	17th March 1890.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
48	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Sāmāchār Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	20	13th ditto.
49	"Kshatriya Pratikā" ...	Patna ...	300	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
50	"Aryāvarta" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	15th ditto.
51	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	
52	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,653	18th ditto.
53	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ...	Ditto ...	500	17th ditto.
54	"Uchit Baktā" ...	Ditto ...	4,500	
55	"Hindi Samāchār" ...	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
56	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ...	Calcutta ...	250	14th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
57	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah ...	300	
58	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
59	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....	
60	"Gauhur" ...	Calcutta ...	196	
61	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar ...	150	
62	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	3rd ditto.
63	"Urdu Guide Darussaltanat" ...	Calcutta ...	340	14th ditto.
64	"Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad" ...	Murshidabad ...	.....	
URIA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
65	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	
66	"Taraka and Subhavartā" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
67	"Pradīp" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
68	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
69	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	
70	"Utkal Dīpikā" ...	Ditto ...	444	
71	"Samvad Vāhika" ...	Balasore ...	205	
72	"Urya and Navasamvād" ...	Ditto ...	600	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
73	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
74	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	450	10th ditto.







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, says that the conclusion of the Tibet-Sikkim negotiations has brought no substantial advantage to the British Government. It is true that Sikkim will henceforward acknowledge British suzerainty, but the relation of the British Government to Tibet remains just what it was before the war. Thus Mr. Macaulay's foolishness and Lord Dufferin's *zeed* have caused much waste of blood and money.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 10th March, says that fires are constantly breaking out in Sherpore in the Mymensingh district, causing incalculable loss to the people.

CHARUVARTÁ,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

The police should keep a vigilant watch within the town.

3. The *Surabhi-o-Pátaká*, of the 13th March, praises Government for its efforts to put down obscene literature. But the writer fears lest hot-headed police officers should take advantage of the present crusade against obscene literature to oppress innocent persons.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
Mar. 13th, 1890.

4. The *Samaya*, of the 14th March, says that Mr. Veasey's secret police circular is sometimes worked in a manner which causes amusement. In pursuance of that circular the police watched, the other day, the annual meeting of the Bansberia Students' Association. Surely such fear of the natives of India is not creditable to Government.

SAMAYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

5. The Allahabad correspondent of the same paper says that recently the Fakir Rajendra Nath Dutta delivered a lecture there in Hindi, in the course of which he spoke of the working of Mr. Veasey's secret circular. The Fakir said that Government has established a strict system of espionage all over India, not excepting the Native States, and that the movements of public speakers and of the Editors of newspapers are being narrowly watched, the police being perpetually on the alert for pretexts for springing upon them and bringing them down. He himself has been lecturing on religious and political subjects for the last 11 years, and during all those years the eye of the police has hardly ever been turned from him, and whenever any meeting has been held in any place in India, the red pugreewallah has been invariably seen there, and that even at that moment, when he was making the speech, policemen were loitering in the courtyards of the houses of many editors of newspapers. And his own movements are so narrowly watched that the head of the police of the district to which he belongs employs the daroga of his native village every month to ascertain where he is.

SAMAYA

6. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 17th March, says that the police of Sujagunge in Berhampore were guilty of a gross failure of duty in not taking any notice of the affray which took place near Khagrabazar on the occasion of the last Holi festival, and in which some boys were heartlessly beaten.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The *Surabhi-o-Pátaká*, of the 13th March, has the following on the Dum-Dum murder case:—

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
Mar. 13th, 1890.

The writer has noticed many cases of oppression by European soldiers, but nothing has been done to put down



such oppression. These soldiers belong to the ruling race, and it must certainly be absurd to think that they should be punished for such trifling acts as the murder of a native committed in a petulant mood. The people of India are destined to suffer oppression, and they should bear oppression uncomplainingly. O'Hara's discharge by a Full Bench of the High Court is then alluded to, and the remark is made that the execution of a European soldier for the murder of a native being an impossibility, the writer had fully anticipated that O'Hara would be let off.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
Mar. 13th, 1890.

8. The same paper, of the 13th March, says that the boy-Magistrate of Dacca is a person of a very hot temperament. The sight of a "kala admi"

The Magistrate of Dacca.

(black man) throws him off his balance and he makes no distinction in his treatment of high and low. His presence at Dacca has extremely annoyed the Dacca people. Can nothing be done to remedy this state of things?

SAMAYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

9. The *Samaya*, of the 14th March, has the following on O'Hara's discharge by the Full Bench of the High Court :—

The Dum-Dum murder case.

The English law is a curious thing. Though safeguarded on all sides, it has yet loop-holes enough to enable criminals to pass unpunished. But then very sharp eyes are required to see what and where these loop-holes are. Weak brained fellows can make nothing thereof.

The writer can on no account accept the decision of the Full Bench in O'Hara's case. If the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice is to be rejected in all cases, a good many criminals will have to be let off. And it is, besides, for the Jury to consider whether or not they should believe the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice. And all the facts spoken to in this case have gone for nothing, simply because the Judge who tried the case in the first instance made a mistake in law! The only evidence available in such cases is the evidence of accomplices, and criminals will remain unpunished if such evidence is rejected.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

10. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 15th March, says that O'Hara's discharge has filled the minds of the people not only of Bengal, but in all India with sur-

O'Hara's discharge.

prise, sorrow and fear.

It is a point to be noted that there was not a single Native Judge on the Full Bench which reviewed O'Hara's trial.

The next point to be noted is that in discharging O'Hara the Full Bench relied upon the very insufficient notes of the evidence taken at the Sessions. This procedure has taken the whole country by surprise.

To bring a charge of unfairness against the Full Bench must be far from men's minds. But the fact remains that a poor native has been shot dead by one or more soldiers within a stone's throw of the metropolis, and the murder remains untraced. Can anything be more astonishing than this? Can anything be more disgraceful to British rule? Of course no educated man will say that O'Hara has gone scot-free because he is a European and the murdered man was a native. But can anybody deny that the ends of justice have been frustrated by a legal technicality? O'Hara has been discharged, but has the crime been brought home to anybody else?

Will Government allow the murder of Selim to remain untraced? Will it not order a further investigation with a view of finding out the real culprit? Or will it not appeal against the decision of the Full Bench to the Privy Council? If Government does not take any further action in the matter, the native public themselves should.

BANGABASI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

11. The *Bangabāsi*, of the 15th March, has the following on the indigo affair in Jessore :—The state of things

Mr. Lusson in Jessore.

in Jessore has become very gloomy; the cultivators of one hundred and twenty-eight villages of Jhenida and Magura,



included in the zemindari of the indigo planters, are about to be undone in the indigo affair. They are compelled to cultivate indigo, which involves them in loss. And this fact, together with the bad harvest of last year and the ceaseless litigation into which they are being drawn by the planters, has made the situation a hopeless one for them.

Mr. Luson, who has to dispose of the criminal cases between the planters and the ryots, is of course doing what he thinks right in the eye of the law. He is not certainly doing injustice knowingly. But it is still all the same for the poor cultivators who are about to be completely ruined. The constitution of the law courts is such that they cannot come out of them unpunished or unmulcted even when victory is on their side. For what with the costs of the suits, and their harassing effects, they find themselves no better off than their fellow cultivators who are sent to prison or otherwise punished. There is no knowing yet where this matter will end.

The ryots have lost all confidence in Mr. Luson, and some of them have gone the length of submitting a petition to him, in which, among other things, the following complaints are stated :—

- (1) The consideration that Mr. Luson is an Englishman, and has come to make the ryots sow indigo, apart from any consideration of the familiarity he has contracted with the planters, makes it highly improbable that he will be able to dispense justice impartially.
- (2) The above suspicion is confirmed by Mr. Luson's unequal treatment of the mukhtears of the ryots, and of the planters respectively.
- (3) Even in the regular suits in which the planters are defendants, Mr. Luson does not take down those points in the cross-examination of the defendant's witnesses which might go against the planters, and his manner of examining the witnesses does not seem free from bias.
- (4) The rumour goes that the cultivated lands of the ryots will be declared under section 145, Criminal Procedure Code, to be Mr. Savi's property and will be sown with indigo.
- (5) Mr. Luson generally decides cases summarily, a procedure which deprives the ryots of the right of making appeals.
- (6) In the disposal of cases, as soon as ten or twelve defendants have made their appearance, and before the complainant or his witnesses have been examined, the defendants are identified and examined, a procedure which precludes the possibility of a fair trial.
- (7) The complainant's witnesses not being examined on one and the same day, they obtain an opportunity of being tutored. This reduces the chances of a correct trial.
- (8) The statements which the complainants and their witnesses, who are the servants and dependents of the planters, make, admitting that they have given evidence in more cases than one, are not recorded by the court, which says that it is aware of the fact.
- (9) The petitioners having for these reasons lost all hope of receiving strict justice from Mr. Luson in these cases, have applied to the higher court for orders for their disposal by some impartial Judge. They pray, therefore, that the cases against the petitioners be postponed pending the orders of the higher court.



The following is Mr. Luson's order on this petition :—

I am aware of having committed no irregularities such as are alleged. In the present case, which was made over to me by the District Magistrate, I took no step to issue process until I had called for evidences to support the complainant, and had myself visited the spot. I shall not stay proceedings; the trial has not begun.—Sd. H. Luson.

The civil cases are not less ruinous to the ryots. These too are being instituted by hundreds, and comprise claims for such trifling arrears of rent as 2 or 3 annas.

The rich men of Bengal and the generous Government should now come forward to the rescue of these poor cultivators, for there is no other means of saving their life and property. To think of the fate of these ryots is enough to make one's heart burst.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

12. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, makes the following observations on O'Hara's discharge by the Full Bench of the High Court :—

O'Hara's discharge.

It now appears that the *Statesman's* statement was utterly unfounded that the European community were deeply convinced of the justice of the verdict passed by the Special Jury on O'Hara in the last Sessions of the High Court. It was too much for the Europeans that one of their own countrymen, and he an English soldier, should be hanged for having killed a nigger. It is true he had killed a native when out on a pig-shooting excursion; but that only showed that he was a brave fellow. To have an English soldier tried before a court of justice for killing one of those natives of whom scores may be killed without affecting in the least the ordinary course of things and affairs—what an idea this! When Goldsborough told O'Hara that Selim's death might get them into a scrape, O'Hara himself replied—"Never mind, there are plenty more of the black bastards." It seems, therefore, a favour shown by these Englishmen to the natives that they have not yet killed the latter to a man. It seems also that in his reply to Goldsborough, O'Hara only gave expression to the sentiment of the whole European community in this country, or that community could not have been so jubilant at O'Hara's discharge. A wounded man struggling in a pond, and some brave English soldiers laughing and enjoying the sight! Surely the men who, instead of feeling exasperated at the fiendish conduct of these devils incarnate, can rejoice at their escaping scot-free, can be men of no better stuff than O'Hara, McDermott Goldsborough and Bellew themselves, though they may pretend to be the followers of Christ and the most civilised people on the face of the earth.

That those who clamoured for the discharge of O'Hara had not discrimination enough to see the justice of the sentence passed upon him appears clearly from the fact that a lawyer like Mr. Phillips characterized the nice point of law on which Mr. Woodroffe contended in the following way :—

"When the words to which objection was now raised were uttered, no notice was taken of them; but they were allowed to pass unchallenged. It was afterwards spied out by an ingenious eye with the aid of a microscope."

It is quite clear, therefore, that these clamourers were entirely carried away by their feeling at seeing a countryman of theirs going to be hanged.

It will be improper at a time, when feeling is still running high, to pass any opinion as to the fairness or otherwise of the decision arrived at by the five 'picked' Judges of the High Court. But it may be safely stated that the success Mr. Woodroffe has achieved is of a kind which he himself did not expect to achieve; and he has been heartily thanked not only by O'Hara, but by the Judges too, for all his trouble. All parties



concerned have received their due meed of thanks. The only man who would have probably gone without thanks is poor Mr. Phillips, but the Chief Justice very considerably did not forget to thank him a little too. The Judges will, no doubt, be thanked for their trouble and their very upright decision of the case, and Mr. Justice Norris specially for his frank admission of his error. Even O'Hara has been thanked and McDermott and Goldsborough have received the promised reward and a free pardon. It seems, therefore, that the only person to blame for this murder was poor Selim himself, for cursed native that he was, he should certainly have known better, and not gone to sleep in supposed security on the open verandah of his hut in this cursed land, and the most fitting conclusion of this most disgraceful drama would be the hauling up of poor Selim's widow before a Judge for damages, and the seizure of her little allowance for recovery thereof.

If a European had been thus murdered by four natives, would it have been possible for them to escape as these English soldiers have done? Even if they had been acquitted on the charge of murder, would they not have been re-arraigned immediately afterwards on the charge of having been implicated in it? But who can now lay his hand on O'Hara's person? All that O'Hara had hoped for was a commutation of his sentence, but his most sanguine hopes have been exceeded, and he now stands acquitted of all the charges against him, and he will proceed shortly to join his regiment in the North-West. This is what goes by the name of justice!

13. The *Sulabh Samvad*, of the 15th March, says that the Full Bench has discharged O'Hara. The Judges have not, of course, thought it fit to order Selim's hut

O'Hara's discharge.

and tattered linen to be seized and sold for paying compensation to O'Hara. But there is, nevertheless, not the shadow of a doubt that a murder has been committed, and that O'Hara and his three companions were present on the spot. No flaw can, however, be found in the judgment of the Full Bench. It is better that a hundred criminals should escape, than that one innocent man should be punished; and no one who takes this view of the matter will be sorry for O'Hara's discharge. But O'Hara's case will nevertheless illustrate how differently skins of different colours are valued. It was only the other day a number of natives were sentenced each to ten years' rigorous imprisonment for having attacked a European. But there is within the memory of the present generation only one instance of a European having been hanged for murdering a native. It cannot of course be said that in all the other cases the culprits escaped in consequence of any fault on the part of the Judges. Judges are guided by such evidence as is placed before them, and by such help as they receive from advocates and pleaders. The fault lies with the native community, who never raise a finger to assist a criminal of their own nationality in the matter of his defence, if there is any doubt about his guilt. All that the poor native offender can look to is such defence as a public solicitor or advocate chooses to make out for him.

14. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th March, delivers itself as follows on the subject of O'Hara's discharge by the Full Bench of the High Court:—

O'Hara's discharge.

There is nothing to be grieved at in this discharge of O'Hara by the Full Bench of the High Court. O'Hara's execution would not have restored Selim to life. Why should then there be sorrow because O'Hara is not hanged! If it be said that oppression by the soldiery will become so much more fearful and frequent in consequence of O'Hara's discharge that people will hardly know how to live in the country, the question should be asked by way of reply whether the practice of executing murderers, which dates from time immemorial, has ever or anywhere had the effect of diminishing murders, and whether murders have increased in the countries which have abolished capital punishment.

SULABH SAMVAD,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.



So people should not be sorry because O'Hara has not been hanged. But it is nevertheless a very bad thing that the real perpetrator of an atrocious murder like this has not been found out, and should be able to escape with impunity. This reflects discredit on the administrative and judicial systems of the English rulers, as well as on their laws and regulations, and in a concentrated form on the entire English nation. If the real offender in this case escapes unpunished, or inadequately punished, the party which will be most injured will be the English nation and the English Government themselves.

It is not yet too late to ascertain which of the four soldiers is the real offender, or whether they all four are equally guilty. The offender can now be punished by the Military authorities. Now that O'Hara has been discharged after a regular trial, and provision has been made for Selim's widow, Government should not think that it can sit idle, but should try its best to perform the royal duty of punishing the wicked and doing strict justice in the case.

The present is not the first act of oppression committed by English soldiers upon a native. Soldiers have been committing such oppression from the very foundation of British rule in India. A sharp-sighted Government like the British Government need not be told that the loyalty of the natives will decrease if such oppression continues unchecked. Government should enforce strict discipline in the army and remove all wicked soldiers from India with the view of putting an end to such oppression.

Selim will not have died in vain if his murder leads Government to exert itself in this way.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
SADHARANI,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

15. The same paper has already said that Mr. Atkinson had petitioned for the removal of the Sibgunj Munsifi from its present site, and that Mr. Watson of the Sardaha Factory had petitioned for its maintenance there. The writer now learns that the latter gentleman has now prevailed with the Officiating Judge of Rajshahye, Mr. Badcock. Mr. Badcock has reported to the High Court in favour of keeping the Munsifi at its present site, on the ground that the situation of the Munsifi at one extremity of the Nawabgunge sub-division is no anomaly, many other Munsifis being similarly situated at the extremities of sub-divisions; that the removal of the Munsifi to the centre of the sub-division would, by facilitating litigation, pave the way for the ruin of the people, and that the Munsifi being at Nawabgunge for upwards of 12 years, the people of that place have acquired a prescriptive right as against other people in the sub-division to have the Munsifi among them.

If the High Court attaches due importance to this matter, and desires to arrive at a just decision in regard to it, it should read the well-reasoned report of the Munsif of Shibgunge and the report of Mr. Cox, the late Judge of Rajshahye, on the subject, as well as the article giving a history of the Munsifi and other articles on this subject published (see Report on Native Papers for week ending the 25th January 1890, paragraph 10, and for week ending the 8th March 1890, paragraph 11) in this paper, and it should also carefully examine the map of the Maldah district.

Mr. Badcock's arrival in Rajshahye as Officiating District Judge has been a misfortune to the people of Kaliachack. If Mr. Pargiter, the permanent Judge of Rajshahye, had not gone away for a time, and if he had reported to the High Court the decision arrived at on the subject by the Munsif of Shibgunge, justice would have been done in this question of the site for the Munsifi. The fact that the High Court has not acted upon the suggestion of former Judges on the subject leads the writer to hope that it will not place implicit reliance upon Mr. Badcock's report. If it does so, people's respect for it will be considerably diminished. It is hoped that the Judges of the High Court will not wound the feelings of the people



of Kaliachack, exceeding one lakh in number, by placing absolute trust in the report which has been submitted by the Officiating Judge of Rajshahye.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

The Dum-Dum murder case.

16. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, has the following on the Dum-Dum murder case:—

The murderer of Sheik Selim has been set free simply because the Judge who tried him committed an error of law. As both the Judge and the prisoner are Europeans, and the murdered man is a native, it is no wonder that an error of law should have been committed by the Judge and the prisoner allowed to escape. The execution of Tantia Bhil is then referred to, and the following remarks are made:—

Tantia was guilty of an offence committed 10 years ago, and for which two persons had already suffered death. And yet Tantia's life was not spared. Apparently the subtle principle of law which applied to the case of Tantia does not apply to the case of O'Hara. In this case either O'Hara alone is guilty of murder, or he and his three comrades together are guilty of it. But the execution of four Europeans for the murder of a native is an impossibility in this country. According to section 114 of the Evidence Act, the evidences of Goldsborough and McDermott was admissible against O'Hara and was sufficient for his conviction. But the construction of the law may differ with caste, creed and colour. In this case the Judges have been misled by the arguments of an astute lawyer and have allowed themselves to be taken for learned fools. Government should arrange for the re-trial of O'Hara under section 430 of the Indian Penal Code.

17. Referring to O'Hara's discharge by the Full Bench of the High Court, the *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 17th March, asks if this trial is to be allowed to

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

terminate in this disgraceful manner. Cannot Government, after consultation with lawyers, have the four soldiers re-arraigned and re-tried by the same Jury, taking care that they are not misdirected this time, and that the other charges are added to the charge of murder? It remains yet to be seen whether the Jury do not find them guilty at least of the other charges.

It is hoped that His Excellency Lord Lansdowne will lose no time in taking some action in the matter.

18. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, for the second fortnight of Falgun, directs the attention of the authorities to the diversity of practice in the Civil Courts and the registration offices as regards the levy of the landlord's fee under section 13 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the case of the transfer of fractional shares of a permanent tenure by sale in execution of a decree other than a decree for arrears of rent. While the registration offices do not under the orders of Government charge the landlord's fee in registering transfers of fractional shares of tenures and holdings, the Civil Courts continue to levy that fee before confirming the sale in execution of decrees. It is not easy to account for this difference in practice. As it is, the auction purchaser in such cases has only to pay the fee, the rate whereof is different in different courts, without obtaining any benefit in return. For under the Tenancy Act the landlord is not bound to recognise a division of a tenure or holding unless it is made with his consent in writing. Nor is it usual for him to accept the fee, which therefore remains in deposit with the Government. In the interest of auction purchasers, therefore, a circular should be issued exempting them from liability to pay the landlord's fee in sales of fractional shares of tenures and holdings.

KASIPUR NIBASI  
Falgun, 1296B.E.

19. The same paper has heard unsatisfactory reports about the administration of justice by Baboo Haris Chandra Sen, Munsif of Barisal, and asks him to take warning in time.

Baboo Harish Chandra Sen, Munsif  
of Barisal.

KASIPUR NIBASI.



## (d)—Education.

**SAMACHAR,**  
Mar. 12th 1890.

20. The Burdwan correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 12th March, says that Baboo Beni Madhub De, Assistant Inspector of Schools, and Baboo Bhuban Mohan Niyogi, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle, who were entrusted with the duty of superintending the Entrance Examination in the town of Burdwan, did not behave properly towards the pleaders of the local bar, who were invited by Beni Baboo himself to assist him and his colleague in their work.

**ARYAVANTA,**  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

21. The *Aryavarta*, of the 15th March, says that teachers should first be made to improve their own morality before moral teaching can be given to boys. Example teaches better than precept; and if teachers continue to resort to places of amusement like the theatres, nautch parties, &c., it will be idle to expect their pupils to lead strictly moral lives.

**DACCA PRAKASH,**  
Mar. 16th, 1890.

22. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 16th March, says that, as Government has empowered District Boards to select text-books for primary schools, the selection of text-books for those schools in the Dacca Circle, by Baboo Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, has been an act of encroachment on the powers of the Dacca District Board. Reference is then made to the list of text-books prepared by Baboo Dina Nath Sen, and the following remarks are made:—

1. Has Dina Baboo acted rightly in taking in *Manasik Ganana* and *Padya Lahari*, written by him before the publication in the Gazette of the list of text-books prepared by the Central Text-book Committee?
2. Has he acted rightly in compelling boys, who read *Manasik Ganana* in previous years to read it again?
3. Was the selection of two readers like the *Bodhodaya* and the *Sukhabodha* for the fifth class at all necessary?
4. Why are two sanitary primers fixed for the third class? And was not the *Swasthya Siksha* rejected more than once by the Text-book Committee?
5. Why have such books as *Sukhabodha*, *Sahitya path*, *Kabita Kalap* been selected in preference to books by such distinguished authors as Pundit Isvara Chandra Vidyasagar, Akshaya Kumar Dutta, Baboo Hem Chandra Banerji?

**DACCA PRAKASH.**

23. A correspondent of the same paper says that some of the questions set at the last Upper Primary Examination held in the Dacca Circle were difficult, and some others were selected from outside the curriculum. The last three questions in the paper on mensuration were selected from parts of the text-book not fixed for the examination.

**DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,**  
Mar. 18th, 1890.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th March, says that the Government of India should see its way to reducing its present number of ministers, instead of creating a new minister. There are many departments which, like the Foreign Department, ought to be managed without ministers. The writer is glad to hear the *Pioneer* say that the rumour regarding the appointment of an Education Minister to the Government of India is unfounded. But if, after all, such a post is created, and Sir Alfred Croft, as the rumour goes, is selected to fill it, immense mischief will be done to the country. Sir Alfred Croft does not possess, in anything like the measure his predecessors did, the qualities of impartiality, strict devotion to duty, sincere desire for India's welfare, &c., and it is



doubtful whether there exist in him at all some of these qualities. It is also doubtful whether he can acquit himself so well in an honest and independent performance of duty as he can in the performance of courtierly functions. Such a man seated beside the Viceroy in the capacity of a Minister would have been a great mischief to the country.

25. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, for the month of Falgun, says that over-work at school and college is the chief cause of the weak physique of the Indian boys, and hopes that the authorities will, in view of this, take steps to reform the present educational system.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Falgun, 1296 B.E.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

26. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th March, has the following in connection with the Burdwan Municipality:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 11th, 1890.

(1). New pipes for conveying filtered water are being laid by the Burdwan Municipality. These pipes are one inch in diameter, and will have to be replaced by larger ones at the time of making house connections. And as that will involve much expenditure, the Municipality should lay larger pipes once for all.

(2). Having regard to the fact that no money has been set apart in the next year's budget for the construction of a burning ghât, the proposal to construct one at Kali Bazar should be given effect to in the course of the current year. A few Mahomedans have objected to the site of the proposed ghât, but as a ghât at that place will benefit thousands of Hindus, the objections of a very small number of men against its construction should not be held to be of any weight.

(3). As the number of thatched huts in the town is very large, the Municipality ought to have a fire-engine.

(4). The municipal law sanctions the levy of a tax on carts ordinarily plying within the town, but not on carts in which goods and passengers are occasionally brought into it from the villages. But the officers of the Municipality make no distinction in the matter, and often levy taxes on carts of the latter description. The authorities should look to the matter, for, if they do not do so, the importation into the town of such articles as wood, bamboos, &c., from the mofussil will be practically stopped.

27. A correspondent of the same paper says that, if the proposal of the Cutwa Municipality to fill up well-privies be carried into effect, the poor people of the place will be put to much inconvenience.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

Well-privies within the Cutwa Municipality.

28. A correspondent of the *Samaya*, of the 14th March, says that the condition of the Allahabad Municipality is miserable in the extreme, and that all the municipalities in the Oudh and the North-Western Provinces are much in the same condition. The European quarters of the municipalities are free from dust and offensive smells, but the native quarters are in a deplorable condition. Sir Auckland Colvin, who is continually occupied with watching the movements of native political speakers and reading articles in native newspapers, abusing Englishmen in strong language, has apparently no eye for matters like the above. The North-Western Provinces never had such a cruel, anti-native and wrong-headed Lieutenant-Governor as Sir Auckland Colvin.

SAMAYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

Sir Auckland Colvin and the Allahabad Municipality.

29. A correspondent of the *Gramvati*, of the 15th March, says that the statement published in the last issue of this paper, to the effect that the people who want to have the roads in their villages repaired

GRAMVATI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

Roads in the Uluberia sub-division of the Howrah district.



not having sent the plans of the same with their applications, the money set aside for the purpose by the Uluberia Local Board has not been granted to them, is not correct. Several people annexed plans with their applications, and yet their applications have not been granted, and nay in some cases even the receipt of those applications has not been acknowledged. Baboo Rasik Lal Raya of Bainon and Baboo Rupnarain Sirkar of Khalar sent with their applications plans for the construction of roads from Dharmaghata to Mukandighi and from Khalar to the Ghoraghata Betman road respectively. These two plans have been received by the Uluberia Local Boards and sent to the District Board. But as nothing has been done in the matter, the Chairman of the District Board should look to it.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

30. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th March, referring to the selection of Mr. Lee for the Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality, expresses the hope that Mr. Lee is no longer the man he was at Alipore, and that his appointment as Municipal Chairman of Calcutta will not work a change for the worse in his disposition.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

31. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 17th March, says that an order for the reconstruction of the temple of Mahabirjee at Durbhunga, if given, will not give public satisfaction if the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Durbhunga Municipality are not made to supply money from their own pockets for carrying it out.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1890.

32. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th March, says that a measure like the Municipal Consolidation Act, which has been passed in spite of popular opposition from beginning to end, is possible only in a country like India. Sir Henry Harrison has eaten the salt of the natives, but has sought the welfare of his own countrymen. This explains why the new Municipal Act has been so oppressive to the former. If the bulk of the landed property in Calcutta had been owned by Europeans, would the municipal law have been framed in the way it has been? It is best not to answer a question of this kind, for to answer it rightly would be to incur the charge of disloyalty.

It is not expected that this meeting that has been held after the passing of the Municipal Act will achieve more satisfactory results than the meeting which was held before the passing of that Act. Some of the speakers used very soft language. But language of any kind, soft or hard, will do little with these English rulers, who take long years to mature their plans and never act hastily. Nor will an appeal to the authorities in England be of any avail. The only thing that can be now done is either to entreat the authorities to relent, or to let matters take their own course. Protests may do some good, but they will not do much good. The best thing to do under the circumstances is to endeavour to disabuse the rulers of their belief that the people of this country do not understand what they do and are satisfied with their doings. When they come to know that it is not, as they take it to be, that the people see them and know them and understand them, they may possibly set about remedying the evil of their own accord.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

33. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, complains that the officers entrusted with the settlement of the reclaimed lands of the Bilbilla beel in the 24-Pergunnahs are settling the same with the ryots at the rate of Rs. 1-8 per bigha. This rate is considered too high in view of the fact that it is the ryots who have

Settlement of reclaimed lands in the  
24-Pergunnahs district.



reclaimed the lands, and that the same lands were a short time ago settled with the zemindars at the rate of 6 annas per bigha. The writer therefore asks Government to reduce the rate and make a permanent settlement of the lands with the ryots.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

34. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th March, says that the survey

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 11th, 1890.

The assessment of the Eden Canal rate.

of the fields which have been supplied with water from the Eden Canal has given rise to much dissatisfaction. As the Sub-Overseers do not leave the *ails* (ridges of earth separating the fields from one another) unmeasured, the result of their survey is necessarily different from the ryots' own calculations, and the latter have consequently to pay in some cases at the rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  annas per bigha. Then, again, the Government surveyors have adopted a uniform standard of measurement according to which one cubit is equal to 18 inches. But in some villages one cubit is taken to be equal to 20 inches. This is also causing much difference between the measurements made by the ryots and the measurements made by the officers of Government. When there are tanks in a field, the discrepancy between the two surveys becomes still more marked. Considering the worry and trouble to which the ryots have to submit themselves in order to be able to obtain the canal water, Government ought to construct water channels for the purpose of conveying water to their fields. It is also desirable that in assessing the canal rate the discrepancy arising from the inclusion of *ails* in the measurement should be taken into consideration.

35. The *Sakti*, of the 11th March, says that the abolition of the

The abolition of the steamer station at Dacca.

SAKTI,  
Mar. 11th, 1890

steamer station at Dacca, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, is causing great inconvenience and loss to traders in that town. Goods from Calcutta being now landed at Naraingunge, their transit from Calcutta to Dacca takes nearly a month. If the steamer-station has been abolished from motives of economy, the Railway authorities should arrange for a speedy transit of goods from Naraingunge to Dacca, for traders will otherwise suffer great loss.

36. The same paper says that on the 5th February last, Baboo

The Station-master of Kushtea.

SAKTI.

Akshaya Kumar Sen, Munsif of Netrokona in the district of Mymensingh, was travelling with his family in a reserved intermediate compartment from Goalundo to Sealdah. At Kushtea, the station-master of that place asked Baboo Akshaya Kumar to go to some other compartment, leaving his family where they were, as the compartment in which he was, was a female compartment. Baboo Akshaya Kumar said that he had reserved the compartment and refused to leave it. The station-master grew warm and called out to the police, when the guard in charge of the train came up, and seeing the reserve pass in possession of Baboo Akshaya Kumar, decided the matter in his favour. Baboo Akshaya Kumar has resolved to bring the matter to the notice of the Railway authorities. Whether he does so or no, the Traffic Superintendent at Sealdah should take prompt measures himself for giving Baboo Akshaya Kumar the redress to which he is entitled.

37. The *Surabhi-o-Pataká*, of the 13th March, says that a good deal

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
Mar. 13th, 1890.

State Railways.

of mismanagement prevails in the administration of State Railways. The other day a train from Syamnagar came to Calcutta half an hour after its proper time. The starting of trains from Calcutta is also frequently delayed, and no satisfactory explanation can be had of such delay. The arrangement for lighting the trains in these railways is also very defective. By a recent order of Government, the lighting of trains on fullmoon nights has been prohibited.



BANGABASI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

38. The *Bangabasi*, of the 15th March, says that, as there are no roads in the village Mahinder near Memari in the Burdwan district, the villagers are greatly inconvenienced in the rainy season. The local authorities seem to take no notice of the matter.

GRAMVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

39. The *Gramvani*, of the 15th March, says that the condition of the roads in the village of Chakar, within the jurisdiction of the Bagnan thana, is extremely miserable, so much so that in the rainy season they become impassable, and even the village chowkidar cannot go on his rounds. The people of this village have repeatedly applied to the Deputy Magistrate of the Uluberia sub-division on the subject of the roads, but in vain.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

40. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that the road from Chuadanga to Meherpore in the Nuddea district is in a deplorable condition. This is the road that is principally used by the people of Meherpore, the road to Krishnagore being in a worse condition even than this. The authorities were several times moved in the matter but without effect. Meherpore alone contributes fifteen thousand rupees annually to the Road Cess Fund of the district, and of that sum only three thousand is allotted to Meherpore for the repair of roads, &c. So large a sum is extorted from the people, but the road, which is their only means of communication with different parts of the country, has been left utterly neglected, especially since it has been made over to the District Board.

All that the people of Meherpore want is that this road be repaired and a bridge be constructed over the river Deeldutta. The expenses of such repair and construction may be defrayed from the amounts which are annually realised by letting the Deeldutta and Chuadanga ferries; and the people themselves will be glad to contribute towards the expenses in the shape of a toll tax.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

41. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, refers to the recent collisions at the Howrah station, and complains of the heartless treatment of the wounded native passengers by the station-master. It is said that the station-master first tried to save the lives of European and Eurasian passengers, and did not even consent to put lights by the side of the rails for the benefit of the unfortunate wounded native passengers, although he was requested to do so by several gentlemen.

(h)—General.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 10th March, referring to the Excise despatch of the Government of India, makes the following observations:—

From before 1877 to 1888 the criticisms of the native press had been directed against the excise policy of Government, but they failed to produce any effect. For beyond making some fitful attempts at reform with the view of stopping the mouths of English missionaries and English mill-owners, who occasionally made common cause with the Native Press in this matter, Government did absolutely nothing to overhaul its excise administration. There can be no doubt that if Government had at that time paid proper attention to the subject, Sir Ashley Eden and Mr. Buckland would not have succeeded in laying the foundation of the mischievous outstall system. And even now the Government of India would not have cared to write its elaborate defence of its excise policy if attacks on that policy had not been made in Parliament. The skin does not smart when the whip is administered by the Native Press in India; it smarts only when it is administered by England.



Every case, however bad, admits of a defence, and it is no wonder, therefore, that the Government of India should have succeeded in setting up a defence on behalf of itself and the Provincial Governments.

But in making their defence, the Viceroy and his Councillors have had to admit that the excise administration of India has not been conducted in a faultless manner from the beginning.

His Excellency would like to have the public believe that the rulers of this country have always tried to improve its excise administration, and have never done anything calculated to increase the people's facilities for drink. The writer does not mean to say that the rulers of India ever do anything with the object of injuring the people, or that they have purposely made their excise administration faulty in order that it may prove ruinous to the people. What the writer means to say is that Government often does acts which injure the people without of course intending their injury. The Government of Bengal has more than once practically admitted the faulty nature of its excise administration. Whenever the excise revenue has showed a large increase, Government has concluded that there must be something wrong in its excise administration, and it has accordingly taken steps of a remedial nature. But whenever, in consequence of the taking of such steps, the excise revenue has declined, it has again encouraged the faulty system. This, in plain language, amounts to saying—"Yes, our excise administration is faulty, but as we have no money (in the Exchequer), we must anyhow increase the excise revenue." But though Government has always felt the necessity of increasing its revenue, it has never had the power to reduce its expenditure even when it has been inclined to do so. It cannot reduce its army expenditure because England requires it to be always in a state of complete military preparation. The Civil Service cannot be interfered with. Nor can the import duties be revived because England will hear of no such thing. And as the income-tax and the salt duty cannot admit of further increase, Government is reduced to the necessity of increasing its excise revenue.

On the other hand, it is very easy for Parliament to condemn the excise administration of India, for it knows full well that any decrease of India's excise revenue will not, in the least, affect England itself. That Messrs. Caine and Smith are good men, who have the interest of India at heart, may be readily admitted. But even these good and unselfish men would have had to maintain perfect silence if their crusade against the Indian excise administration had involved the sacrifice of English interests.

That the endeavour to increase the revenue is the root of all evil has been admitted by all Indian Governments, Supreme and Provincial, and is hinted at in every page of this excise despatch. But the Viceroy and his Councillors have had not the courage to state their case in an honest straightforward manner. If they had possessed such courage they would have been found addressing Parliament somewhat in the following style:—

"It is you who have closed up the principal sources of our income. By abolishing the import duties you have placed the Indian Exchequer under the influence of that malignant planet Saturn. It is in consequence of your order that we have had to make such preparations for war to allay the fears of a Russian invasion. It is for your sake that we cannot reduce the number and cut down the value of appointments held by Europeans in the Civil and Military Services and in the Public Works Department. It is owing to you that India and England cannot have a uniform system of currency. It is owing to you that in making remittances to the Secretary of State we have to lose 6 to 7 crores of rupees every year. It is for you that we have to send to England such large sums year after year. It is owing to you that we have to import soldiers from England at a ruinous cost. It is owing to you that India's expenditure has been so much increased and her income has to be



so much expanded. We have therefore no resource left to us except increasing an excise revenue with the inevitable result of increasing the consumption of wine in this country. We are thus compelled to sin knowingly, but you are responsible for what we do. For we only carry out your orders."

The public in this country would have been glad if the Viceroy and his Council had defended themselves in this way.

If in consequence of increasing the price of liquor its consumption decreases and the revenue suffers, Government will be again compelled to reduce its price; or if that is not possible, it must have recourse to other means of increasing its revenue. It is easy to say—"We do not care for our revenue and are ready to sacrifice it if the welfare of the people requires us to do it"—but to act in this way in the practical administration of the country is a very difficult thing indeed. The fact is that so long as England's undue influence over India continues, so long as England's interests are preferred to those of India, so long as India is not entrusted with the duty of looking after its own interests, so long will this farce continue and Government will be compelled to stick not only to its excise policy, but also to many other policies equally objectionable. Protesting in Parliament against the excise policy of Government will do this country no good. It is easy to show one's love for India by protesting in Parliament against the Contagious Diseases Acts or the excise policy of Government, but such exhibition of love for her will do India little good. If camp women, for instance, are excluded from the military cantonments, the civil population will suffer shameful indignities at the hands of the European soldiery. And, similarly, if the excise revenue decreases in consequence of the present agitation, the people will have to suffer the hardship of paying new taxes.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

43. The same paper says that it is clear from Mr. Cotton's reply to the Behar Landholders' Association on the subject of the proposed education cess that the cess in question will be imposed without delay. "The tree of Local Self-Government is at last beginning to bear ambrosial fruit."

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 12th, 1890.

44. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th March, has the following on the Excise despatch of the Government of India:—

Government denies that it ever intended to increase the excise revenue by increasing the consumption of liquor, and says that it has always been its object to raise a sufficiently large revenue from a comparatively small consumption of that commodity. Some figures have been given in support of these statements, from which it is clear that Messrs. Caine and Smith have rather overstated their case. But, though Government must be acquitted of the charge of having intentionally increased drunkenness in the country, still it must be admitted that those who have brought that charge against it are not without some sort of justification in some of its own acts in this connection. Is it not a fact, for instance, that since the establishment of outstills in the country, even the peasants have imbibed drinking habits? Is it not also a fact that though the people protested against the establishment of outstills, Government allowed years to pass before it showed any inclination to move in the matter? Sir Rivers Thompson was a good Christian, but was not his excise policy a reprehensible one? There can be no questioning of the intentions of Government, but it must be said with regret that its profession and its practice are often inconsistent with each other. Is it not a fact that Government invariably rewards those officers who show in their reports increased receipts from the excise and the Income-tax? Government never moves in the direction of reform until pressure is brought upon it from England for the purpose. So long as the Native Press complained of the food regulations in the Indian jails, Government remained perfectly unconcerned in the matter; but directly a question on the subject was put in



Parliament by Mr. O'Donnell, it made frantic efforts to overhaul its jail administration. So in the present case, so long as the Native Press criticised the excise administration of Government, nothing was done in the matter; but now that the subject has been brought to the notice of Parliament by Messrs. Caine and Smith, things look as if something will be done in the matter. Messrs. Caine and Smith therefore deserve the thanks of the people of this country.

45. The same paper says that by transferring Mr. Beadon from Durbhunga, Sir Steuart Bayley has shown that no oppressive official can enjoy his good opinion. Mr. Beadon ought to be severely punished for what he has done. It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will not remain content with simply transferring Mr. Beadon.

SANACHAN,  
Mar. 12th, 1890.

46. The *Surabhi-o-Pataká*, of the 13th March, has the following on the Excise despatch of the Government of India :—

The Excise despatch.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
Mar. 13th, 1890.

The Government of India had never thought that it would be at any time called to account by anybody for its acts. So perfectly heedless of consequences, it had gone on conducting its administration in a most wilful manner, paying no attention whatever to the criticisms of the public. It is a sorry spectacle, therefore, to see this great Government justifying itself before the public like a person who has committed an offence. It ought to have in the height of its power borne in mind that it too was liable to be brought to account for its acts, and it should have conducted itself accordingly. It will be something if the necessity it has felt to be under in the present case of furnishing an explanation to Parliament awakens in it a proper sense of its responsibility.

Government has stated most shamelessly in this despatch that the increase of drunkenness in the country is due to the disappearance, under the influence of English education, of people's prejudices against drinking and to the increased prosperity of the people. Government is unwilling to admit that it has, by establishing outstills, brought liquor to every man's door and thus made him a drunkard. It has attempted to make out that the increase of the excise revenue is due not to increased consumption of liquor, but an increased excise duty. But as the consumption of liquor in the country, instead of remaining stationary, has gone on increasing during the last 18 years, Government is hardly justified in ascribing the increase in the excise revenue to the enhancement of excise duty. A table showing the consumption of liquor in the country during the last 18 years beginning with 1870-71 is then given in support of this statement. In 1870-71 the excise revenue amounted to Rs. 1,84,309, and in 1888-89 it increased to Rs. 4,82,854. Thus it is clear that the increase of the excise duty has by no means checked the consumption of liquor. The writer is glad to find that Government has partially admitted the mischief which is done by the outstills, and will be still more glad if the practice of granting excise licenses indiscriminately is discontinued.

47. The *Samaya*, of the 14th March, in criticising the last Excise despatch of the Government of India, makes the following observations :—

SAMAYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

(1). The attempt of Government to defend its excise policy has proved a huge failure. The arguments used in the despatch, which, by the way, covers 400 pages of the *Gazette of India*, are utterly hollow, and can be satisfactorily answered point by point. In the course of the despatch Government has abused its enemies and attempted to mislead Parliament by filling it with a statement of unimportant facts.



(2). In the beginning of the despatch, Government says that the rules regarding sudder distilleries and outstills, which were in force between 1877 and 1884, were of a tentative nature, and that Government ought not to have been therefore held responsible for the defects that may have been found in them. In 1883 it appointed a Commission to enquire into the statement made at that time that the establishment of outstills had increased drunkenness in the country, reduced the number of outstills, and gave effect to other recommendations of the Commission. But even if all this is admitted, Government cannot be wholly acquitted of the charge of having increased drunkenness in the country. In the first place, Government consented to reduce the number of outstills not of its own free will, but when pressure was brought upon it for the purpose. In the second place, it did nothing extraordinary in giving effect to the recommendations of a Commission composed of its own officials. There would have been some ground for absolving it from the charge if it had given effect to the recommendations of the people of the country on the subject.

3. The despatch says that Mr. Smith's statement in Parliament regarding the increase of drunkenness in Bengal is only partially correct, for although drunkenness continued to increase in the country till 1884, its further increase has been checked since that time by reason of the Bengal Government having given effect to the recommendations of the Excise Commission, and the outturn of liquor from the sudder distilleries of Bengal has shown a marked decrease since 1886. But this is an absolutely untenable statement. For if, as Government says, the outturn of liquor from the distilleries has decreased, how is it that Government's excise revenue goes on increasing?

A table purporting to have been based on official reports, and giving the receipts from sudder distilleries and outstills respectively during the last quarter of a century, or from 1863, is then quoted with the view of showing that there is no basis for the statement made in the despatch that since the publication of the report of the Excise Commission, the manufacture of country liquor has decreased in Bengal.

4. In its anxiety to defend its excise policy, Government has quoted in the despatch all expressions of opinion which are in any degree favourable to it, and has in some cases attempted to put wrong constructions on views which are on the face of them condemnatory of its policy. To give one illustration. In 1874 the late Baboo Keshub Chandra Sen sent a memorial to Lord Northbrook asking him to put down drunkenness in the country. And as Mr. Smith has made use of that memorial in making his attack on the excise policy of Government, the latter has attempted to answer him by saying that that was nearly 15 years ago, and sudder distilleries &c., no doubt did some harm at that time, but that is not the case now, and that Keshub Chandra's memorial refers only to drunkenness among the educated classes and not among the masses. But this reply of Government, by which it has attempted to silence Mr. Smith, has really injured its cause. There were in 1874 very few or no outstills in the country, and so poor people were comparatively free from the vice of drunkenness. The memorial did not on that account speak of drunkenness among the poor; and if Keshub Chandra had been now living, and if the memorial had been a later composition, a reference to the increase of drunkenness amongst ordinary people would undoubtedly have been found in it. So the fact that no reference was made in Keshub's memorial to drunkenness amongst the poor does not alter in the least the complexion of the present controversy.

5. In another part of the despatch Government says that the increase of the Excise revenue is due not to increased sale of country liquor, but to the increase of duty on imported liquor, and that liquor imported from England now-a-days contains a smaller proportion of alcohol than before. But as no facts have been given in support of this statement, it is for the



public themselves to judge whether they should accept or reject it. Besides, any consideration of the strength of the liquor which is imported from England is immaterial for the purposes of the present discussion. It may be admitted that imported liquor is not now so strong as it used to be before; but will such admission help Government in any way? If the liquor is weaker, those that drink it must be drinking it in larger quantities than before in order to produce the desired state of intoxication, and so its consumption must increase.

48. Referring to the justification of its present excise policy by Government, on the ground that the drink question being intimately associated with the religions of the people of this country,

The Government's justification of its Excise policy.

Government does not feel it safe to modify that policy, the *Pratikar*, of the 14th March, says that, even without tampering with those points of the excise system which have any bearing on religion, there is still ample room for reform. It is idle to expect that drinking can be made to disappear from the land altogether, but what is objected to is that Government should make profit out of its Excise administration.

PRATIKAR,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

49. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that, apart from the question of expense, the annual exodus of Governments to the hills is objectionable on the ground that it keeps the officials in complete ignorance of the condition and wants of the people. And bad legislation is one of the results of such ignorance. It was certainly ignorance of this kind that led Lord Lansdowne to say that there is not a single public body in India fit to be entrusted with the elective franchise. Even if the officials defrayed the expenses of their journey to Simla from their own pockets, the exodus would be still indefensible on this ground. The Government again are not satisfied with taking with them to the hills only the most indispensable retinue. The Bengal Government, for instance, allows the Director of Public Instruction and the Sanitary Commissioner to go to Darjeeling. But what service do these officers render it there? Government never hesitates to waste people's money in such unnecessary expenditure, and it pleads want of funds whenever it is asked to do anything that will benefit the people, and it does not feel ashamed to increase taxation.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

The exodus of the Governments to the hills.

As regards the correct expenses of these journeys it is hard to give a statement thereof until an accurate list can be had of the number of officials that annually migrate to the hills. But the press is not supplied with such a list. And it is therefore impossible to ascertain what portion of the money extorted from the people in the shape of taxes goes to minister to the comforts of the officials. But the amount cannot be much below five lakhs of rupees. And in considering this question of the cost of these exoduses, not only the travelling allowances, but also the allowances which are given to the officials in consideration of the high price of articles in the hills should be taken into account.

The cries of the people last year against this wanton waste of money reached even the ears of the authorities in England, but failed to produce any effect. So long as India continues to be governed not for its own sake, and not for the good of its own people, so long will this abuse of public money continue, and so long the people of India will cry in vain against it. What is wanted is a thorough reform of the system on which India is now governed.

50. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, is glad to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor has transferred Mr. Beadon from Darbhanga, and has said that he will like no oppressive officer. But

Mr. Beadon's transfer from Darbhanga.

SOM PRAKASH  
Mar. 17th, 1890.



considering the gravity of his offence, Mr. Beadon should have been more heavily punished.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Falgoon, 1296 B.E.

51. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi*, for the month of Falgoon, says that the postal arrangements in the village of Otampur within the jurisdiction of the Ranishul post office are imperfect. A branch post offices should be established there, and the village school-master asked to do the postmaster's duty.

A post office wanted at Otampur within the jurisdiction of the Ranishul post office.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

52. Referring to Lord Salisbury's observations in the course of the debate on the Indian Councils Bill, the *Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, says that it would be absurd to expect anything more or anything better from the leader of the Conservative party. Lords Northbrook, Ripon, and Dufferin, ex-Governors-General of India, do not consider the Indians unfit for the elective franchise, but Lord Salisbury, who never even set foot on Indian soil, considers it unsafe to give them that franchise because election has failed in Turkey, in Egypt, and particularly in Crete, and because India is composed of many races and many religions. There is a simple answer to these objections of Lord Salisbury, namely, that the Turks, the Egyptians and the Cretans have not received and assimilated Western ideas like the Indians, and that though the English, the Scotch, the Welsh and the Irish, are not one people, and profess different forms of Christianity, they still possess one elective Government. Earl Granville has justly warned Lord Cross by saying that the Government is taking a great responsibility upon itself by rejecting Lord Dufferin's proposals.

The debate on the Indian Councils Bill.

ARYAVARTA,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

53. The *Aryavarta*, of the 15th March, complains of the inconvenience which the people of the North-Western Provinces have to suffer in consequence of the laws which are made by the Legislature of those Provinces not being translated into Hindi.

Translation of the laws of the North-Western Provinces Council into Hindi.

### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 11th, 1890.

54. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th March, gives a *resumé* of the pamphlet on Cashmere written by Baboo Jogendra Nath Bose, Pleader of the Lahore Chief Court, and observes as follows :—

Baboo Jogendra Nath Bose on the Cashmere question.

Baboo Jogendra Nath served for some time in the Cashmere State and is therefore intimately acquainted with its affairs. His pamphlet contains nothing which he cannot speak to from personal observation and enquiry; and its perusal leaves no doubt in the mind that he has attempted to furnish the public with an impartial account of the Cashmere imbroglio. The country will, therefore, be glad if the Viceroy, the English public, and the English Parliament will take the pamphlet into their favourable consideration.

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARUVARTA,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

55. The *Charuvarta*, of the 10th March, says that an application has been made to the Lieutenant-Governor for the registration of the *Sarasvata Samiti* of Mymensingh under Act VI of 1882. The writer thinks that the big men of the district will not be slow in making munificent contributions towards the funds of the Samiti, now that it is seeking by means of registration to enter upon a career of responsibility. The writer can

The Mymensingh Sarasvata Samiti.



count upon such contributions for two reasons—The first is that the people sympathise with the objects of the Samiti, and the second is that the donors will make names for themselves by thus forwarding the cause of progress in this county.

56. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 10th March, asks, will nothing be done to punish those who goaded the Kols of Chota Nagpore into re-

The Kol disturbance.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

bellion?

57. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th March, makes the following remarks on the indigo disputes in the district of Jessore:—

The Indigo disputes in the district of Jessore.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 11th, 1890.

The very fact that the poor helpless Bengali ryots have made a stand against the rich and powerful indigo-planters makes it clear that the former must have been grossly ill-treated by the latter. There ought to be a thorough enquiry into the points in dispute between the planters and the ryots, and an officer, possessed of a sympathising heart, should be deputed for the purpose. The planters are surely mistaken if they think that they will be able to carry this point by sheer force. Such a thing is impossible under British rule.

58. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th March, heartily thanks Sir Steuart Bayley for the allowance of Rs. 5 a month granted by him to the widow of the murdered Sheik Selim.

The allowance granted to the widow of Sheik Selim.

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 12th, 1890.

59. The same paper cannot accept as correct the *Pioneer* newspaper's view that the difficulty of obtaining recruits for the native army is due to the loss of the fighting instinct among the martial races of India under the peaceful British Administration. The real explanation of the difficulty will be found in the low salaries given to the sepoys, in the deprivation of the rights which they formerly enjoyed, and in the sort of treatment which the European officers in the army have been latterly according to them. Retired sepoys will, if questioned on the subject, complain of the present treatment of the sepoy by his European superiors, and express their unwillingness to send their children to the army on that ground. The *Pioneer's* proposal for the formation of Pathan regiments is then alluded to and condemned. As the Mahomedans now look upon Russia as their natural protector, it will be difficult to count upon the fidelity of a Pathan corps to Government in the event of a war with Russia. During the Afghan war, the Pathan soldiers left their respective corps and went over to the enemy in a body.

SAHACHAR.

60. The *Sudhakar*, of the 14th March, says that it is only the English-knowing and hot-headed young Hindus, who are a disgrace to their religion, that are found

The cow-killing question.

SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

picking quarrels with the Mahomedans for nothing. Bigotted Hindus having faith in their religion are never found to fall out with their Mussulman fellow countrymen. The other day a revered member of the famous Gosvami family of Santipore openly abused these co-religionists of his who had quarrelled with the Mussulmans on the cow-killing question, and said that the men who make most fuss about the sacrilege of cow-killing are exactly the men who have no faith in their own religion. It is these beef-eating hypocrites that have raised the present hue and cry against the killing of cows, as though they can enjoy no ease without abusing the Mussulmans.

61. The same paper learns that some Hindus of Jessore are requesting the Mussulmans of the place to sign a petition which, they say, will be sent up to Parliament. The writer wants his co-religionists not to sign such a petition without reading it.

A questionable petition.

SUDHAKAR.



SUDHAKAR.

62. A correspondent of the same paper says that a meeting of the Mussulmans of Khulna and Bagirhat was held at Khulna on the 2nd March last to investigate into the causes of the present degraded condition and poverty of the Mussulmans. The conclusion arrived at was that this falling back of the Mussulmans in the race for progress, in spite of their high moral and religious qualities, was owing to their neglecting education and the newspapers. The meeting accordingly resolved to do what it could to assist the Mussulman newspaper, the *Sudhakar*, and to promote the cause of Mahomedan education. The meeting having come to know that the boys of the Bagirhat school were greatly inconvenienced for want of a boarding house close to the school, subscriptions were raised for the construction of such a boarding house.

SUDHAKAR.

63. The same paper thus answers the *Burdwan Sanjivani* newspaper's article headed "Government's love for the Mahomedans," extracted in the Report on Native Papers for week ending 15th March, paragraph 70:—

The attitude of the Hindus towards the Mussulmans.

The Editor of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* has taxed all his ingenuity to find out an explanation of Government's partiality to the Mahomedans. He has thought fit to remind Englishmen of acts of "inhuman oppression" committed by Nawab Seraj-ud-doula. But does he think that the acts of heastly oppression committed by Rajah Rajballabha, the slave of Seraj-ud-doula's slave and Maharaja Nanda Kumar were much smaller in number than those ascribed to Seraj? Is it not matter of history, the truth whereof has been vouched for by liberal Hindu writers themselves, that even now the very name of Raja Rajballabha inspires terror in the minds of the people of Dacca, Furreedpore and other districts in East Bengal, and that it is never pronounced except for the purpose of being cursed? The editor of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* has charged the Mahomedans with treachery and ungratefulness. But is it not a fact that Rajballabha, Raya Durlabh, Jagat Sett, Umichand, Krishna Chandra, and other "jewels among the Hindoos," who, by the way, had been immensely benefited by Alivardi Khan, seated the foolish and short-sighted Mirjafar on the throne of Seraj as Nawab of Bengal? As for Seraj, those who charge him with cruelty and oppression should read Baboo Rajani Kanta Gupta's article on the subject in his work entitled the *Bharata Prasanga*.

Reference is then made to the Cawnpore massacre, and the editor of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* is asked to consider how far his attempt to blacken the character of the Mahomedans has succeeded. Was it not a Hindu by whose order that brutal massacre was committed?

Before charging the Mahomedans with treachery and ingratitude the editor of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, who is a resident of Burdwan, should have called to his memory the behaviour of the rebel Sobha Singh towards his master, one of the former Maharajas of Burdwan. Sobha Sing murdered his master and violated his daughter.

The ancestors of the present generation of Hindus lived on terms of intimacy with the Mahomedans, and did not therefore shrink from shedding their heart's blood in furtherance of their interests.

Both the Hindus and the Mahomedans are now anxious to obtain favours at the hands of Englishmen. And it is because the Mahomedans have fallen far behind the Hindus that Government, out of kindness, is endeavouring to raise them. It is a pity, therefore, that at such a time as this the Hindus, instead of sympathising with the Mahomedans, and thereby furnishing proofs of the brotherly feeling which they profess for them, have adopted a hostile attitude towards them. The Mahomedans have nowhere shown a desire or disposition to use the favours they have received



from Englishmen in a manner which would be prejudicial to the Hindus. But the Hindus seem very anxious to make use of their superior status as a means of worrying and thwarting the Mahomedans at every step. Such attitude on the part of the Hindus to the Mahomedans will do good neither to themselves nor to the Mahomedans.

64. The *Sulabh Samachar-o-Kushdaha*, of the 14th March, says that the Dum-Dum murder case is not yet over in the High Court, and the intelligence is received that four soldiers have shot two Brahmin boys at Umballa. Will Government do nothing to put a stop to these murders by the soldiers?

SULABH SAMACHAR-O-KUSHDAHA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

Murder of two Brahmin boys by soldiers at Umballa.

65. The same paper says that a girl of 17 or 18 years of age recently performed the rite of *suttee* at Tikari. The *Sanjivani* reports the case on the authority of an eye-witness. If the report be true, Government should make a careful enquiry into the matter.

SULABH SAMACHAR-O-KUSHDAHA.

A case of *suttee* at Tikari.

66. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide*, of the 14th March, says that the sale of the mosques built by the sons of Nawab Wajed Ali Shah of Oudh in their own quarters, along with the palace, which has been notified for sale in the course of this month, will be highly objectionable.

DARUSSALTANAT AND URDU GUIDE,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

The sale of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah's palace.

67. The *Samaya*, of the 14th March, refers to the application made to Mr. Sterndale, Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, by the people of Pulta and Dhitara, on the subject of the oppression which is committed upon them by the European soldiers in the local cantonment, and says that all places lying near cantonments suffer more or less from such oppression. If the statements made in the application in question be correct, then there will be no denying that, in this case, oppression by the soldiery has become absolutely unbearable. The writer has confidence in Mr. Sterndale, and thinks that he will do his best to put down the oppression. Government, too, should look to the matter.

SAMAYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1890.

Oppression by soldiers.

68. The same paper refers to the recent legislation by Government, regulating marriage expenses amongst the Kudva Kunvis of Southern India, and says that objectionable social practices prevailing among other Hindu communities should be similarly put down by the Legislature, and the more so as Hindu society has now no leaders to whom the work of reforming social practices could be safely entrusted. It is a mistake to think that the interference of Government in social matters will be attended with more harm than good.

SAMAYA.

Marriage expenses among the Kudva Kunvis of Southern India.

69. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th March, thinks that the opposition shown to the zemindari punchayet by the British Indian Association is wholly unreasonable and unwarranted. The punchayet has already done good work by settling the disputes between the members of the Gobardanga family; and it will not fail to do an immense amount of good to both zemindar and ryot, if it takes to arbitrating not only between zemindars, but also between zemindars and ryots.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

The zemindari punchayet.

70. The same paper says that the vagaries of the soldiers stationed at Barrackpore and Dum-Dum have reached their climax. After the murder of Sheikh Selim, the people of Dum-Dum do not consider themselves safe even within their houses at night. Judging from the agitation set on foot by the European community, it does not appear likely that O'Hara will be executed and made an example of to men like him; and so there is no hope of these soldiers

SANJIVANI.

Oppression by soldiers.



desisting in their wild career from fear of punishment. The people of Barrackpore have petitioned their Cantonment Magistrate, Colonel R. H. Sterndale, against these oppressions, and have asked him to find some remedy for the evil. The other day eight soldiers from Barrackpore entered into an orchard belonging to a man named Chandi Charan Ghosh of Pulta, and began to eat cocoanuts. The man came to the barrack to lodge a complaint against the offenders, but being refused entrance into the guard-room, failed to obtain any redress. The authorities should not lose time in making provision for the security of life and property of the people of these two places, or the case of Selim will not be the last of its kind.

In the Deccan the case of Nirnee is still pending, and one Colonel Prescott Daisy shot a man the other day while out on a shooting excursion, and paid him Rs. 2 as compensation. It is no wonder that the men who hold the life of a native to be worth two rupees, and who stand in no fear of punishment for killing natives, should shoot the latter as so many cats and dogs. It is matter for congratulation that they have not yet shot dead the whole native population of the country.

Government is earnestly requested to check this lawlessness of the soldiers. The consequences may be serious if the people are goaded to desperation.

BANGABASI,  
Mar. 15th, 1890.

A Hindu religious association at  
Beauleah.

71. The *Bangabási*, of the 15th March,  
publishes the following telegram:—

Beauleah, 19th March 1890.

In connection with the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Beauleah Dharmasabha, a public meeting of the Hindu population of Rajshahye was held here yesterday, the like of which was never witnessed here. Letters of sympathy were received from several important places and persons. Representatives of Rajas, zemindars, respectable Hindu residents and delegates from the adjoining districts were present. The spacious hall of the Sabha being found too inadequate for the audience, the open quadrangle in front of the building was utilised as the meeting place. Pandit Ramtanu Tarkaratna, the Acharja of the Sabha, and Baboo Kishorimohan Chaudhury, M. A., B. L., zemindar, in impressive speeches, explained the desirability of establishing a central religious association, the object of which should be to look to the interests of the Hindu population of the country and to protect their rights and privileges in religious matters; and also to offer facility for imparting religious and Sanskrit education to the Hindus. Pandit Krishna Das Vedantabagis, Professor Baikunthanath Tattwabhusan eloquently spoke in favor of this proposal; when Pandit Aghorenath Siroratna of Rungpur supported by Pandit Ramanimohan Vidyaratna of Mymensingh and others, proposed the following resolution, that to carry out the object of this meeting a Hindu conference be convened during the next winter season at Calcutta, Benares, or at some such other place as may be settled hereafter. The resolution was carried unanimously. The next resolution was proposed by Abhaya Kanta Smritikantha, that a committee consisting of the following gentlemen be armed with powers to add to their number, and with the Maharaja Sir Lakshmisvar Sinha Bahadur, the chief Hindu noble in Bengal, as its head, for the purpose of arranging to hold the proposed Hindu conference, and to establish a central religious association. The list of names is too long to be reported by telegram. The resolution was carried with great enthusiasm and cheering. Several gentlemen addressing the meeting in favor of the proposed committee, the business was concluded.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 16th, 1890.

72. The pleaders and amla of the Navinagore Munsifi in Tipperah write to the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th March, to say that they are suffering

Want of good drinking water in  
Navinagore in Tipperah.



greatly from the want of good drinking water. The only reservoirs are a rivulet at a distance from the munsifi, and three ponds close to their quarters, but the water of all these is in a very foul condition, and quite unfit for drinking purposes. The correspondents request the authorities to look into the matter, as the repeated applications to the District Board have been quite ineffectual.

73. The same paper, of the 17th March, thinks that the grand arrangements that are being made for laying the foundation-stone of the new Eye Infirmary

The new Eye Infirmary.

within the Medical College compound are quite uncalled for, as the new institution will not confer any new boon on the public. Like the Chunilal Seal's Dispensary, the new Eye Infirmary will be made a part of the existing hospital, intended more to supply its own wants than to supply increased and improved means of treatment and more comfortable accommodation to the public.

74. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th March, says that it made a mistake in saying that the depositions quoted by it in its article on the subject of indigo oppression in Magura and Jhenidah

A mistake in the *Navavibhakar Sadharani's* article on indigo oppression.

were (see Report on Native Papers for week ending 15th March 1890 paragraph 99) given in the course of the trial of a case of theft of pulses instituted against Baboo Kedarnath Ghosh by Mr. Selby. The depositions in question were given in the course of the enquiry made in November last by the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Bangsidhar Sen, into the truth of the allegations made against the planters in the memorial of the ryots of Magura to Government. The charge of theft against Baboo Kedarnath was brought much later, and having been pronounced false by the police, Mr. Ison has summoned Matilal Mukharji, an officer of Mr. Selby, who instituted the charge, to answer to a charge of instituting a false complaint. This is really a good act on the part of Mr. Ison, and the writer is therefore all the more anxious to correct his mistake.

75. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th March, says that the proposal to establish a lard manufactory at a village in the Serampore sub-division has been opposed by the villagers on religious grounds. But as the local authorities have paid no heed to their objection, Sir Stuart Bayley is asked to interfere in the matter.

A lard manufactory in a village in the Serampore sub-division.

76. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th March, says that the punishment of the editor of the *Pioneer* by the High Court is a blow to the liberty of the press. After this, editors of newspapers will fear to expose social evils and to do their duty by the public fully, fairly and openly, until the law of libel is modified. The press will thank the *Pioneer* if it can effect anything in this direction by its powerful agitation.

The lesson of the *Pioneer* libel case.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

77. The *Paridarshak*, of the 10th March, says that Mr. Harold, Sub-divisional Officer of Moulvi Bazar, Sylhet, does his work in a very capricious manner. Most of his judgments do not stand on appeal. Besides,

Mr. Harold, Sub-divisional Officer of Moulvi Bazar, Sylhet.

his constant indisposition has made him very fretful for public service. He ordered on the 3rd March last, the day fixed for the sale of defaulting estates, that the intending bidders should not be allowed to stand in the verandah of the court-house, although he was told that the result of his order would be to prevent them from bidding. And he did not even care to notice a slip which was written to him by Kunjalal Dhur, a mukhtar, enquiring whether the action of the police in driving away the intending bidders from the verandah had his sanction. The Sub-divisional Officer thus conducted

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 16th, 1890.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 17th, 1890.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 18th, 1890.

PARIDARSHAK,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.



and closed the auction in disregard of the law. Babu Kunjalal has telegraphed to the Deputy Commissioner on the subject, but no reply has yet been obtained. Who is to be held responsible if the sale is declared null and void?

PARIDARSHAN,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

78. The same paper says that the Government is doing great injustice to the people of Assam by appointing outsiders and incompetent men to the Subordinate Judicial Service of the province, in disregard of the claims of the former to posts in that service. It is not also easy to refrain from protesting against the Government's action in still continuing to fill up vacancies in that service with unqualified men on the old patronising system. The Government of Bengal has set an example in this respect by resolving to recruit the Subordinate Executive Service from the ranks of graduates by competitive examinations. It is rumoured that the Assam Government is going to give Mr. Rita, a clerk in the Chief Commissioner's office, the post of an Extra Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Rita is an Englishman, and hates the very sight of natives. He gets a salary of Rs. 300 a month because he is an Englishman, for Rs. 100 a month would have been deemed ample remuneration for a native doing the same work. No wonder that such an appointment should take everyone by surprise. Three Englishmen, Messrs. Lee, Black, and Moore, have already been appointed as Extra Assistant Commissioners, and it would be highly unjustifiable for Government to appoint a fourth Englishman in the same service, disregarding the claims of more qualified natives. The Subordinate Judicial Service is intended solely for natives; and the special sanction of the Secretary of State is needed in appointing an Englishman to it, as will be seen from the following extract from the Secretary of State's Despatch to the Government of India, dated the 15th May 1858:—

"You are already aware of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the policy to be adopted in admitting Natives of India to higher posts under Government, and the Uncovenanted Service evidently offers the most ready access to them.

"Para. 5. Generally speaking, I am of opinion that the rules for those branches of the service to which it is possible to appoint a considerable proportion of natives should be framed with a view to the circumstances of natives rather than of Europeans."

The following extract from the Despatch of the Secretary of State, dated the 6th December 1871, also lays down distinctly that if any Englishman is to be appointed to this service the appointment should be made by the Secretary of State in person:—

"Para. 2. I am glad to find that you concur in the principle that Natives of India should be more generally appointed to offices the duties of which they are competent to discharge; and that offices to which it is desirable to appoint persons not Natives of India, and for which special technical and professional qualifications are required, should be as far as possible held by Covenanted Civil Servants or officers of the Staff Corps.

"Para. 3. It is obviously desirable that an increasing proportion of Uncovenanted officers should be natives of India, and also that the principle which has been hitherto so eminently successful in operation should be as far as possible maintained, of vesting the first appointment of such Europeans as may be destined for the higher branches of the service, whether Covenanted or Uncovenanted, in the authorities in England, leaving all promotions to be made by the authorities in India. It would be a violation of these principles to encourage the creation of a highly-paid English service in India, the first appointment to which be vested in the Local Government."

It is hoped that the Government will read these despatches carefully before appointing Mr. Rita to be an Extra Assistant Commissioner.



79. A correspondent of the same paper brings the following charge against the Deputy Magistrate of Sunam-

PARIDARSHAK,  
Mar. 10th, 1890.

The Deputy Magistrate of Sunam-  
gunge.

gunge :—

The Deputy Magistrate was on tour from December to February, returning to head-quarters on Saturdays only for the discharge of treasury work. In his tour he did not follow the programme which he had himself laid down before its commencement. He did not, as a rule, hold his court at the appointed places, and he thus caused great inconvenience to the parties. In many cases, the parties had to give up their cases, and thus the Deputy Magistrate was able to make short work of it by dismissing them.

The correspondent asks if the Deputy Magistrate was instructed by Government to check the growth of criminal litigation in the country by this means, and requests the Deputy Commissioner to enquire into the matter.

80. The same correspondent says that when the present munsif of

PARIDARSHAK.

The Munsif of Sunamgunge.

Sunamgunge came to the station, he gave out that he had a peculiar knack of disposing of

heavy cases. But people have since come to know that this peculiar knack means something very different from peculiar judicial ability, the thing they had at first taken it for. They now see that the munsif comes to court sometimes a little after ten o'clock and sometimes after eleven, and the pleaders not being able to appear so early, he dismisses their suits and makes short work thereof. The parties have to suffer great inconvenience on this account. This statement will be borne out by the large number of cases which have been thus dismissed, and by a comparison of the number of cases retried since November last, with the number retried in previous years. It is also said that a new method has been discovered for a speedy disposal of suits, namely, rejecting them if they militate against section 9 of Act I of 1877.

The munsif has also a peculiar knack of falling asleep in court.

The Judge of Sylhet is requested to direct his attention to this munsif.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 22nd March 1890.



70. A correspondent of the same paper brings the following charge against the Deputy Magistrate of Sumatra:—  
The Deputy Magistrate was on tour from

December to February, returning to head-quarters on Saturdays only for the discharge of treasury work. In his tour he did not follow the programme which he had himself laid down before its commencement. He did not, as a rule, hold his court at the appointed places, and he thus caused great inconvenience to the parties in many cases. The parties had to give up their cases, and thus the Deputy Magistrate was able to make short work of his clearing them.

The correspondent asks if the Deputy Magistrate was instructed by Government to check the growth of criminal law in the country by this means, and requests the Deputy Commissioner to enquire into the matter.

71. The same correspondent says that when the present month of January came to the Deputy Magistrate, he found that he had a peculiar flock of prisoners. They were all men, and some of them were very young. They were all from the same place, and they were all charged with the same offence. The Deputy Magistrate was very much surprised at this, and he enquired into the matter. He found that the prisoners were all from a village called "Kuala", and that they were all charged with the same offence. He was very much surprised at this, and he enquired into the matter. He found that the prisoners were all from a village called "Kuala", and that they were all charged with the same offence.

The Deputy Magistrate has also a great number of prisoners in his jail. The Deputy Magistrate has also a great number of prisoners in his jail.

THE DEPUTY MAGISTRATE

Sumatra, 17th Dec.

THE DEPUTY MAGISTRATE  
Sumatra, 17th Dec.